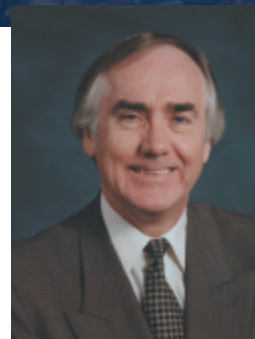


Dennis Avery

Indiana State Representative, District 75



Summer, 2001

Dear Friends:

The 2001 long session of the Indiana General Assembly has ended with the passage of a new state budget, redistricting and several other important laws. I am pleased we completed our work on time in a bipartisan manner.

The new two-year state budget includes increased funding for education, CHOICE and other important programs while avoiding a general tax increase. The budget also includes funding for several important local projects that are detailed inside this newsletter.

We passed several other laws that will benefit our state in a variety of areas, including health care, education, crime, election reform and environmental protection. We made improvements to our license branch operations and passed legislation that will protect consumers from annoying telephone calls with the establishment of a do-not-call list. I have described many of these new laws in the next few pages.

In addition, you will find a map of our new legislative district. We are required to redraw the district boundaries every 10 years due to population shifts. I welcome those of you who are new to the district and look forward to working with you in the coming months to make Indiana a better place to live.

Please contact my office if you have additional concerns or questions about state government. You may e-mail me at H75@ai.org or call toll-free at 1-800-382-9842.

Sincerely,

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Inside

•The new budget

•New legislation

•District map

•Local funding



New budget increases school support, local development

Going into the 2001 legislative session, many observers felt that a sluggish economy would make it difficult to enact a biennial state budget without either passing a general tax increase or cutting funding for critical areas like public education. However, the budget bill that became law continues our record of avoiding general tax increases, while providing additional state support to our schools, health care and local projects.

The final version of House Enrolled Act 1001 enables the state to increase support for public schools across Indiana by an average of 3.5 percent each of the next two fiscal years, with minimum guarantees built in to help schools avoid cutting programs and personnel. Funding for higher education was increased by an average of 3.2 percent each year.

Services and local development

The budget includes additional funding for the CHOICE program that provides in-home care services for the elderly and disabled, as well as Build Indiana Fund support for research and technology, community wastewater and drinking water grants and improvements to voting systems.

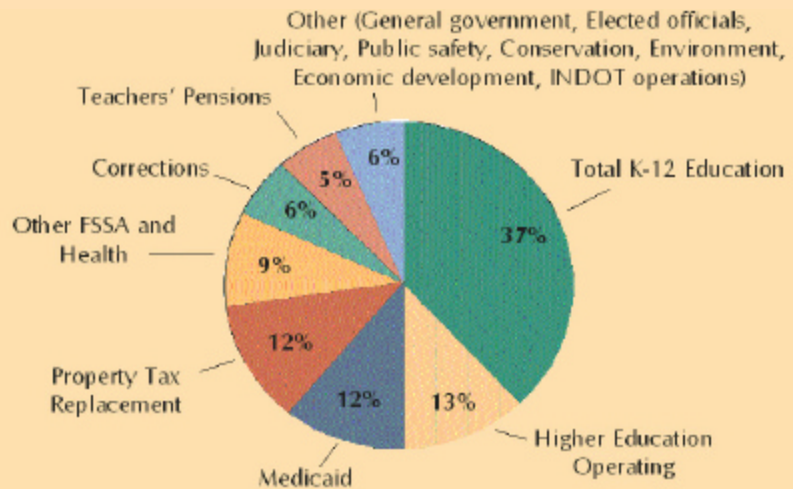
Tax relief

It was disappointing that we were unable to provide the levels of tax relief that were included in past state budgets, but I am pleased that we were able to extend the life of the homestead credit at 10 percent and maintain the earned income tax credit that assists working families on lower incomes.

Businesses and farms will receive an income tax credit on personal property beginning in 2003, and mobile homes have been changed to be treated as real property with similar deductions. The budget bill continues to fund a statewide property tax relief program that now takes about 16 percent off all property taxes. When coupled with the 10 percent homestead credit, that translates to savings of around 26 percent.

A bill the size of the budget does not contain everything I would like, but considering the fiscal restraints facing legislators going into the 2001 session, I feel this budget is a major accomplishment.

Spending highlights from the 2001-2003 budget



Build Indiana Funds go to District 75

The following organizations have been appropriated capital from this year's Build Indiana Funds.

USI/New Science & Education Bldg:	\$25,000,000
Ivy Tech/addition & renovation:	\$19,100,000
Armstrong Township Recreation Ctr:	\$50,000
Burdette Park/O'Day Discovery Ctr:	\$165,000
Carousel Association:	\$50,000
Chandler VFD/fire truck:	\$155,000
East Branch Library/renovations:	\$90,000
Elberfeld VFD/renovations:	\$10,000
Elberfeld, city of/water improve:	\$202,300
Emporia Project/Sunshine Grocery:	\$330,000
Evansville Jr. Football League:	\$60,000
Evansville Boys & Girls Club:	\$25,000
Evansville Rehabilitation Center:	\$222,000
Evansville Small Bus. Incubator:	\$40,000
German Township VFD/renovations:	\$30,000
Greer Twp. VFD/fire truck:	\$120,000
Hands On Discovery Museum:	\$50,000
Haubstadt VFD:	\$15,000
Pigeon Creek/desnagging project:	\$55,000
Reitz Home Preservation Society:	\$40,000
St Vincents Day Care Center:	\$15,000
Stringtown Library/renovations:	\$100,000
Tri-State Food Bank/truck:	\$45,000
Wesselman's Woods Nature Center:	\$60,000



Avery legislation brings local improvements



REP. AVERY WITH LT. GOV. JOE KERNAN.

During each legislative session, my efforts are focused on ways that I can improve life for the families of our district. Below is a summary of some of the bills that I authored which

became law.

Preservation Park

Historic buildings and 250 acres of property from the Evansville State Hospital will transfer to the Evansville Preservation Park, a not-for-profit umbrella organization which will renovate several of the buildings. House Enrolled Act 1401 enabled the transfer, and requires the state to grant an ease-

ment in one of the parcels to the Evansville Parks Department for a recreational greenway.

When the area is complete, it will serve the recreational needs of the entire Evansville community and surrounding areas. Several ideas for the property include plans for a senior citizens assisted living facility, a Hands-On Discovery Children's Museum, a carousel and a greenway. The property will include several exercise trails and pathways.

Historic libraries

HEA 1900 allows the Indiana State Library to establish a fund to provide matching grants to libraries to restore and repair historic library buildings. All Carnegie libraries and libraries listed on the National Register of Historic Places would qualify for money from the fund.

Evansville is home to three historic libraries, each of which could benefit

from the matching fund. The money would consist of grants and gifts to the State Library for the fund, and from money allotted by the General Assembly.

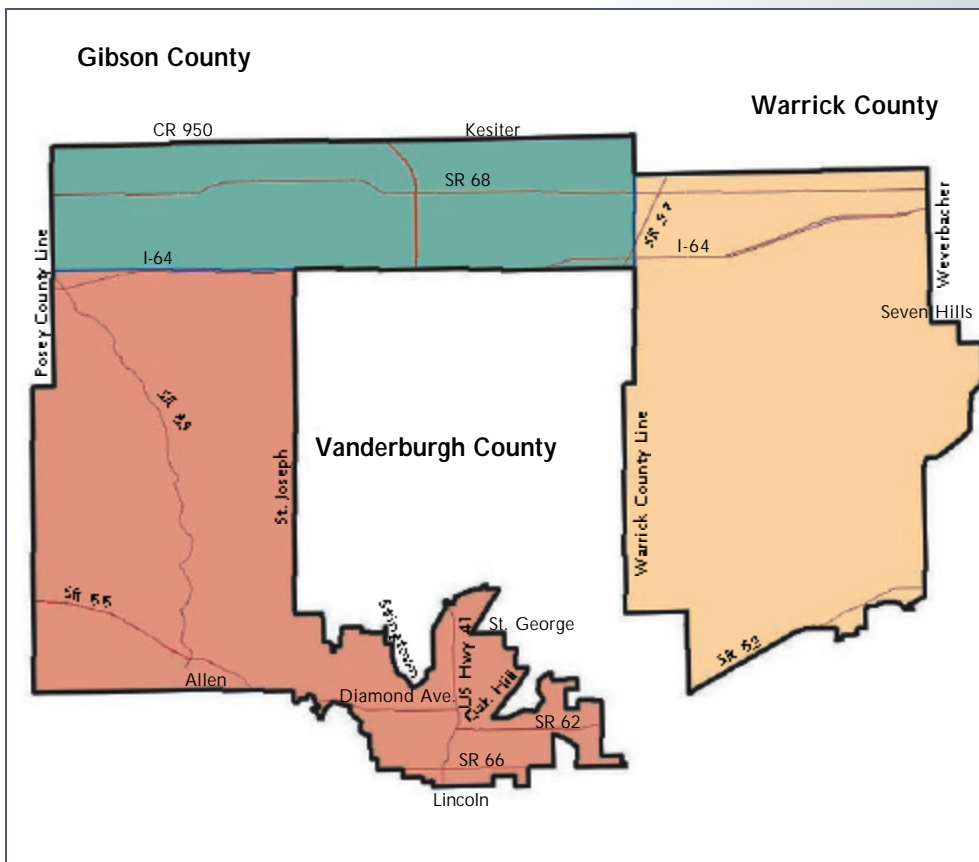
County corrections funding

I also authored a bill to eliminate the provision that reduces the amount of grant money that Vanderburgh County can receive for community corrections. This provision prevented Vanderburgh County from receiving certain grants, leading to the county's spending \$1.5 million in property taxes to fund corrections programs.

Mercury products

Finally, I authored HEA 1901 which bans the sale of certain mercury-added products in Indiana and prohibits the use of elemental mercury in schools. Mercury is an environmental hazard and has been proven to slow the development of a child's brain.

The new look of District 75

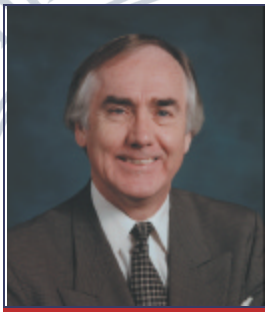


During this year's session you may have heard about redistricting in the news. After each census, the Indiana General Assembly is required by law to redraw House, Senate and Congressional district boundaries according to population changes.

District boundaries are very complicated, and it took months of effort and debate among legislators to reach a consensus. In the end, however, I feel that the district lines we have drawn are as fair as possible.

District 75 will now consist of the following: Gibson County: Johnson Township; Warrick County: Campbell Township, Greer Township, and Ohio Township; Precincts 6, 7, and 14; Vanderburgh County: Armstrong Township, German Township, and parts of Center, Knight, and Pigeon Townships.

For both the current members and those new to the district, I look forward to serving you. Please contact me if you have questions about the district or any other matters.

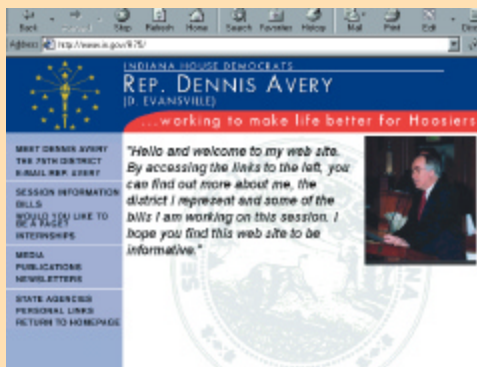


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Election reform, privacy from telemarketers

Stay informed about these
and other issues online with
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Lawmakers in Indiana took steps this year to change the way we handle elections. Although these reforms are welcome, I was disappointed that my colleagues in the Senate failed to pass a bill that I authored which would have reformed the Electoral College to make Indiana's votes more representative of the popular vote for President.

Voting machines

Senate Enrolled Act 268 gives counties the ability to enter into agreements with the state to purchase upgraded voting equipment. This allows counties to take advantage of the state's ability to purchase large amounts of equipment and materials at discounted prices. Funds contained in the biennial state budget will help the state provide 50 percent matching grants to further reduce those costs. The same legislation also eliminates the use of punch-card voting in future elections.

Voter Registration

The Indiana Election Division

will make a voter registration form available on the Internet that people can download, fill out and mail in to be processed. The legislation also strives to update lists of eligible voters by removing names of people who are deceased and convicted felons who are in prison.

Telephone Privacy

In 2001, lawmakers took steps to help reduce the interruption of telemarketers calling you at home. Through House Enrolled Act 1222, you will be able to have your name placed on a do-not-call list that will **prohibit most solicitors from contacting you via the telephone**. To be placed on the list, contact the Office of the Indiana Attorney General about the **Telephone Privacy List at 1-888-834-9969**.